

I. AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

22. (Allowed-Formerly claim 23) An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides encoding a protein with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

23. (Cancelled-Formerly claim 24)

24. (Cancelled-Formerly claim 25)

25. (Currently Amended-Formerly claim 26) The isolated polynucleotide of ~~claim 23~~ claim 22, wherein said amino acid sequence is at least 90% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 and having the same enzymatic activity as a component H polypeptide of the phosphotransferase system.

26. (Currently Amended-Formerly claim 27) The isolated polynucleotide of ~~claim 23~~ claim 22, wherein said amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 and having the same enzymatic activity as a component H polypeptide of the phosphotransferase system.

27. (Allowed-Formerly Claim 28) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (Cancelled-Formerly claim 29)

29. (Allowed-Formerly claim 30) An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides encoding a protein with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

30. (Cancelled-Formerly claim 31)

31. (Cancelled-Formerly claim 32)

32. (Currently Amended-Formerly claim 33) The isolated polynucleotide of ~~claim 30~~ claim 29, wherein said amino acid sequence is at least 90% identical to that of ~~SEQ ID NO:2~~ SEQ ID NO: 4 and having the same enzymatic activity as a component H polypeptide of the phosphotransferase system.

33. (Currently Amended-Formerly claim 34) The isolated polynucleotide of ~~claim 30~~ claim 29, wherein said amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to that of ~~SEQ ID NO:2~~ SEQ ID NO: 4 and having the same enzymatic activity as a component H polypeptide of the phosphotransferase system.

34. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended-Formerly claim) A vector comprising a sequence identical to that of the isolated polynucleotide of any one of ~~claims 23-40~~ claims 22, 25-27, 29, and 32-34.

37. (Currently Amended-Formerly claim 38) A bacterium transformed with the vector of ~~claim 37~~ claim 36.

38. (Allowed-Formerly claim 39) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide codes for component H of the phosphotransferase system.

39. (Allowed-Formerly claim 38) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 30, wherein said polynucleotide codes for component H of the phosphotransferase system.